

Julie Eisenhower: The Most Available Nixon

By Dorothy McCardle

She's rapidly becoming the most outspoken and available Nixon and, yesterday, Julie Nixon Eisenhower was at it again in "this very, very difficult time of the Watergate tragedy," speaking out in defense of her father.

At a White House reception for 250 Teen Age Republican (TAR) leaders, Mrs. Eisenhower said she "felt proud of the campaign organization of 1972."

To the youth whose ages ranged from 13 to 17, she said, "Thousands of workers

all over the country did so much. I hate to see all the good things they did and all the good things my father has done in the past four and a-half years overshadowed."

After the ovation died down, she told her audience that she would telephone her father at Camp David and tell him of their reaction.

"I'll give him your vote of confidence," she said.

She said that her father had phoned her from Camp David the night before to say that his talks with Soviet General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev were "going very well."

She was led back to the Watergate several times when she submitted to questions. Asked how she feels it will affect the 1974 congressional elections, she said, "If a vote were taken today, the results would probably not be very favorable," adding, "Not all the charges are in. We have not had all the facts."

"Maybe in a month or two things may turn around," she predicted.

Asked what her father will do when he leaves the White House, she said that he had "been so overwhelmed by present events, he has had no chance to think about the future."

But she said that her husband, David Eisenhower, who is now a sports columnist, has suggested that President Nixon become the future baseball commissioner!

She said she will continue to help her father's administration, making speeches, receiving various groups as she has been doing but she said she is not certain what she will do at the end of his term.

"I will always be involved in politics, but I will not seek public office," she said, an apparent attempt to put down mounting reports to one contrary. "Later I may return to teaching."

She praised the TARs for the job they have done and told them how happy she was that her father won the "youth vote" in 1972.

"You proved that to be a Republican you don't have to be square," she said. This brought big applause from the young people standing before her in the East Room.

After punch and cookies in the State dining room, the TARs kept time to the music of the Marine Band in the entrance hall.

The TAR leaders are attending the Fifth National Teen-Age Republican Leadership Conference this week at Madeira School.